

Presented by

CTK

オトナの共依存。

midnight rain

借金歴10年の男 × ケンカ好きの一匹狼



Z
A
A

PAAANT

WHO IS
IT?

WHO—

MA
MCKLE
KE

MIDNIGHT RAIN

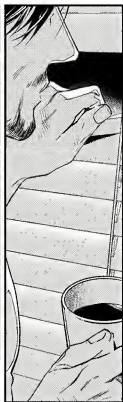
CHAPTER 1

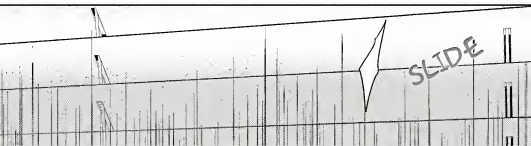
B-BOY P!

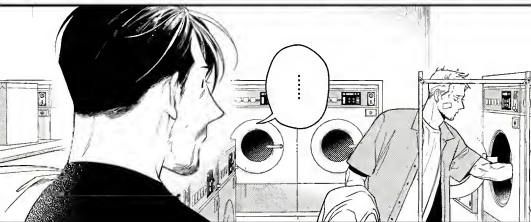
CTK



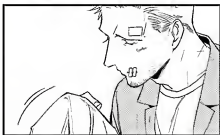
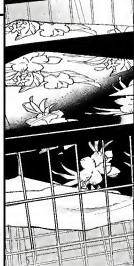
SHUT







WOW.



HOW DID
YOU WASH
THEM TO GET
THEM THAT
CLEAN?

THOSE
CLOTHES.





I LIVE THERE.

I SAW YOU FIGHTING. I ALSO SAW YOU GET BLOOD ON YOUR CLOTHES THEN.

L-LAST NIGHT, IN FRONT OF THIS PLACE!

SO??

Gwah

WHOOSH WHOOSH





YEAH.

...DO
WHATEVER
YOU
WANT.

I SEE.

IT'S NO
GOOD IF I
DON'T USE
WATER?

AS LONG AS
YOU WASH IT
WITH WATER
BEFORE THE
BLOOD DRIES,
YOU'LL BE
FINE.

WITH OIL,
I CAN STILL GET
THEM CLEAN,
BUT WITH BLOOD,
I CAN'T QUITE
GET IT OUT.



Tumble Tumble...



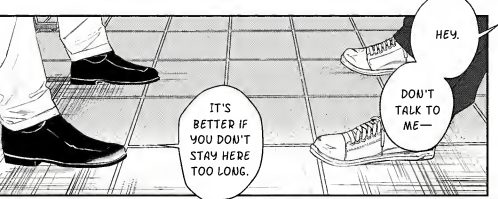
Siiigh

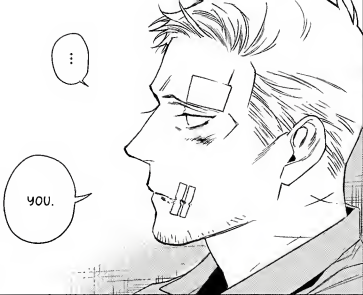
I
HAVEN'T

SEEN YOU
AROUND HERE
BEFORE,
THOUGH.

DID YOU
JUST MOVE
HERE?

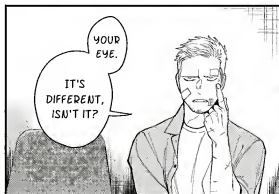
Bored...



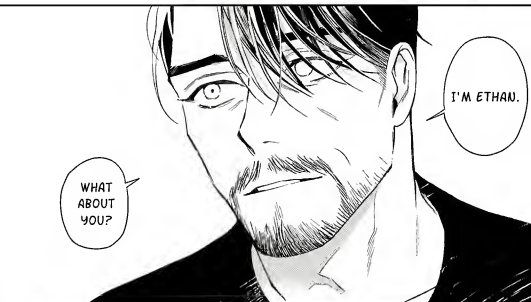


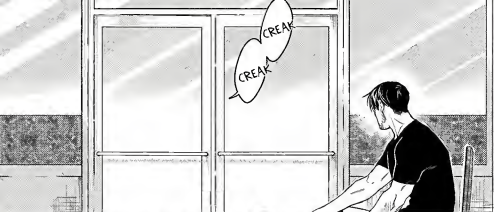
FOR A
POOR PERSON
LIKE ME, IT'S
THE SAME
NO MATTER
WHERE I
LIVE.

HAHA.
THAT'S
TRUE.











MIKE.

AH.

...SEE
YOU
AGAIN,



MIKE.

CH DINER

RESTAURANT

2 CUPS OF
COFFEE.

WILL THAT
BE ALL?

YEAH.

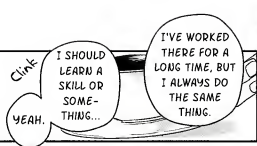
FIRST IS
"THAT",
ETHAN,
RIGHT?

YEAH,
YEAH.

I WILL
BRING THEM
OVER
SHORTLY.

WHAT
A HUGE
MAN...







AT THIS
POINT,

I DON'T
WANT TO DO
ANYTHING I'LL
REGRET.



IN THREE
MORE YEARS,
I'LL BE ABLE
TO PAY BACK
EVERYTHING.

I DID MY
BEST FOR
TEN WHOLE
YEARS.



...YOU
STUBBORN
FOOL.

IT'S
FINE.

I'M GLAD
YOU GET
ALONG WITH
ME SO WELL,
DON ~

I'LL PAY
FOR YOUR
COFFEE.



Plip

244

444

OPEN



MCKLEN	2B
KEITH	2C
ETHAN	3A
DEBORAH	3B

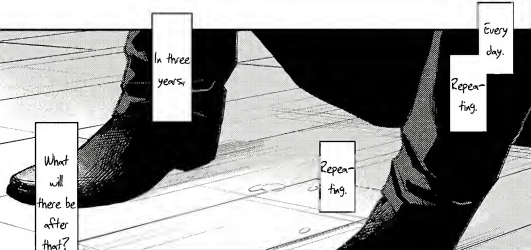


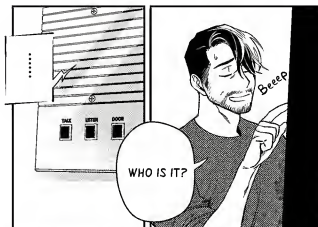




Aah.

I'm sick
of this.





WHO IS IT?

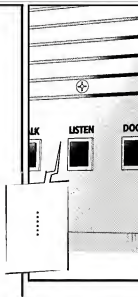


I ALWAYS
SAY IT'S
WAY TOO
LOUD...

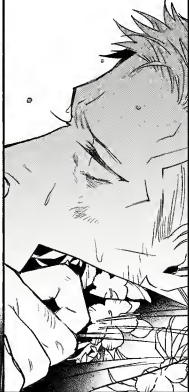


DID THEY
PRESS THE
WRONG
BUTTON?

WHO...

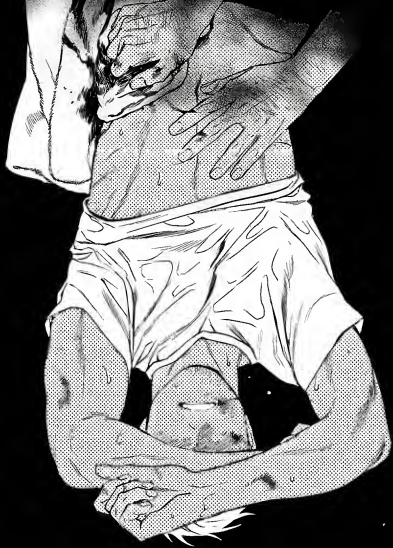






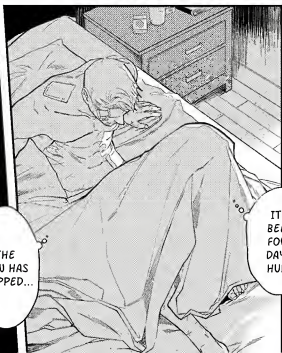
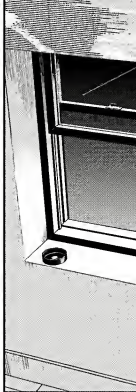
TO BE
CONTINUED

2
4
4
4
4



Midnight Rain

Chapter 2 Part 1



THE
RAIN HAS
STOPPED...

IT'S
BEEN
FOUR
DAYS,
HUH?



WELL, OF COURSE.

SHIT,
IT HURT
LIKE A
BITCH
THOUGH.

EVEN
WHEN
I GET A
PAPER
CUT, IT
HURTS.

Ha
Ha
Ha

IT'S A
GOOD THING
THE WOUND
WASN'T TOO
DEEP.

IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
IT'S GOTTEN
INFECTED, SO
IT SHOULD
HEAL PROP-
ERLY.

Glares

THERE
AREN'T
REALLY MANY
PEOPLE LIKE
THAT AROUND
HERE, YOU
KNOW.

I SAID THIS
AREA WAS
DANGEROUS,
BUT FOR YOU
TO REALLY
GET SLASHED,
WELL...



※Motel... A simple lodging facility.





LET
ME INTO
YOUR
APART-
MENT?



Rustle

ACTUALLY, I'M
IMPRESSED
YOU FOUND
YOUR WAY TO
MY PLACE.

AH, DO
YOU NEED
ANY MORE
PAINKILL-
ERS?

WELL, I
COULDN'T
JUST LEAVE
YOU ALONE
WHEN YOU
WERE BLEED-
ING SO MUCH,
RIGHT?

I'M
FINE.

... HOW
DID YOU
KNOW IT
WAS ME
OUT
THERE?

I WON-
DER IF

IT WAS
MY INTU-
ITION.

I
COULDN'T
EVEN
SPEAK.



WELL,

YOU
WERE THE
ONE WHO
CAME TO
ME, NO?



phew

EVERY-
THING IN
THIS NEIGH-
BORHOOD
KEEPS
REPEATING
EVERY DAY,
SO...

EVEN
IF YOU
ASK ME
WHY,



Grin



I KNEW IT WAS YOU.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

DO YOU JUST LET IN ANYONE WHO COMES TO YOU?

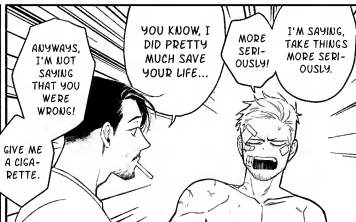
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

SO WHAT, IN THE END,



THAT'S MINE, THOUGH?

IF YOU'RE NOT OKAY WITH IT, THEN SAY NO.



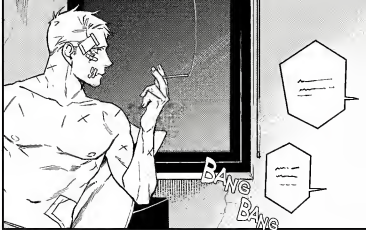
ANYWAYS, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU WERE WRONG!

GIVE ME A CIGARETTE.

YOU KNOW, I DID PRETTY MUCH SAVE YOUR LIFE...

MORE SERIOUSLY!

I'M SAYING, TAKE THINGS MORE SERIOUSLY.





TCH.



MIKE?



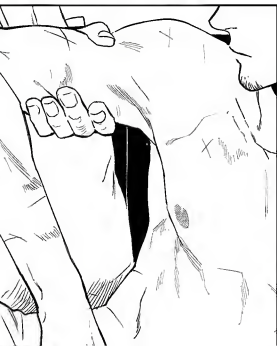
AHHH.

LIKE
I SAID, IT
REALLY
WOULD BE
BETTER TO
PUT SOME
OINTMENT
ON THAT.



INSIDE MY
MOUTH...

THE
WOUND.





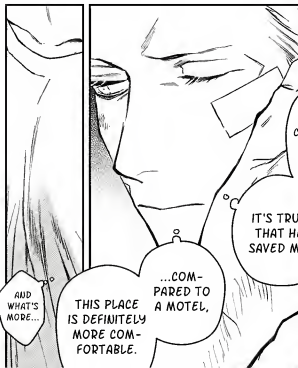
AL-
RIGHT?

HE'S GOT
SOME WEIRD
QUIRKS AND



LET'S
PUT SOME
OINTMENT IN
YOUR MOUTH
AND ON
YOUR FACE,

AND CHANGE
YOUR BAN-
DAGES TOO.



AND
WHAT'S
MORE...

THIS PLACE
IS DEFINITELY
MORE COM-
FORTABLE.

...COM-
PARED TO
A MOTEL,

IT'S TRUE
THAT HE
SAVED ME.

HE
DOESN'T
CARE ABOUT
WHAT
OTHERS
SAY, AND

SOMETIMES,
HE SAYS
SOME REALLY
IRRITATING
THINGS,
BUT...



IF YOU DO
ANYTHING
WEIRD, I'LL
BEAT YOU
TO DEATH.

Teehee, what
a weird face.

...YOU'VE
BEEN SO
OBEDIENT
UP UNTIL
NOW
THAT IT
MAKES ME
WANT TO PUT
SOMETHING
BESIDES MY
FINGERS IN
YOU.

HUGE...

WHAT
DID YOU
SAY AFTER
CALLING ME
OBEDIENT?

WHAT~?

WHAT?

?
OPEN YOUR
MOUTH SO I
CAN PUT SOME
OINTMENT IN
THERE.

I'M
JOKING,
I'M
JOKING.

...
AM I ALSO
BEING AN IDIOT
FOR GETTING
WEIRDLY SELF-
CONSCIOUS ALL
OF A SUDDEN?



HERE.



HIS
EYELASHES
ARE UNEX-
PECTEDLY
LONG.







THIS
WON'T
HURT.



Swf

To be
continued

Midnight Rain
Chapter 2 Part 2

Rudge



STOP
IT!!

STOP
IT—

WAIT...!

RUBS

HEY,



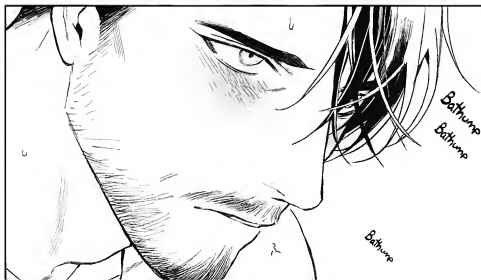
I SAID!!

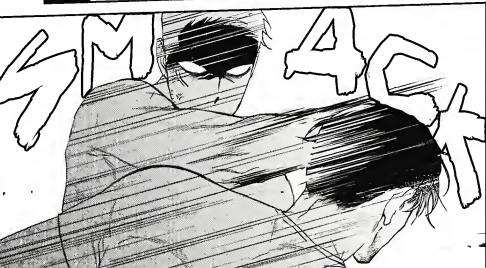
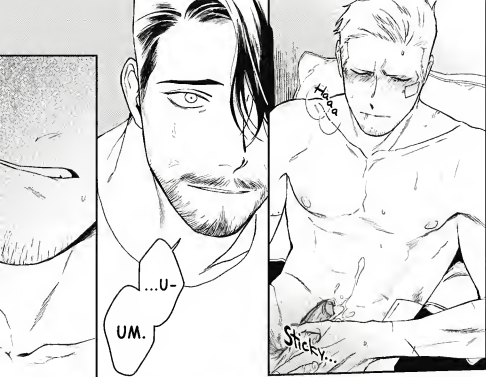


Squeeze

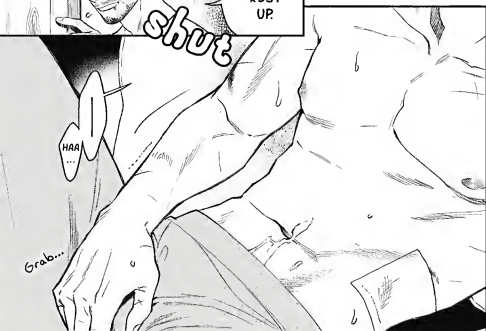












Twitch

UGH

Shaa

aaa

Siiigh...

WHAT
DID I
DO?

SOME-
THING IS
WRONG
WITH ME.



TO BE
CONTINUED

AND
BEFORE I
KNEW IT,
BUT THERE WAS
NO ONE
AROUND ME.
IT WAS
EASIER FOR
ME TO
BE ALONE,

THE SMELL
OF TRASH AND
TERRIBLE INJURIES
THAT DON'T
EVEN HAVE
TIME TO HEAL
BEFORE THEY
MULTIPLY.
I'VE GOTTEN
USED TO LIVING
A LIFE
THAT BELONGS
IN A LOW-BUDGET
ROAD MOVIE.

IT WAS
AN EVERYDAY
OCCURENCE
FOR ME TO RUN
INTO TROUBLE
BECAUSE OF
MY INTIMIDATING
FACE AND MY
BLUNT
PERSONALITY.

THAT'S
WHY...

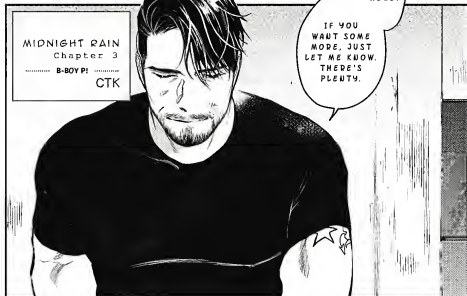


MIDNIGHT RAIN
Chapter 3

***** B-BOP P! *****

CTK

HERE.
IF YOU
WANT SOME
MORE, JUST
LET ME KNOW.
THERE'S
PLENTY.





COMING AT ME
WITH KIND WORDS
WHILE SMILING,
AND PROPERLY
PUTTING OUT
FOOD FOR ME.
...EVEN GOING
SO FAR AS
TO TOUCH-MY-
SKIN.

IT'S
NOT
SPICY,
IS IT?

HOW'S
THE
FLAVOR
?

I BOUGHT
THIS ON
THE WAY
HOME FROM
WORK AT A
NEW PLACE
THAT JUST
OPENED UP.



...PAD THAI
IS THE SAME
WHEREVER
YOU GO.
ISN'T IT?

I FEEL
UNCOMFOR-
TABLE,
LIKE I'M
WEARING
CLOTHES
THAT
CHAFE
MY SKIN.



...THE
MOST
UNCOMFORTABLE
THING
THOUGH.

I
BOUGHT
A LOT OF
OTHER THINGS
AT THE
SUPERMARKET
TOO.

IS
THAT
SO?

IS
HOW I'M
GETTING
USED TO
BEING
HERE.



HE ONLY
ANSWERS
PROMPTLY
WHEN IT'S
TIME TO
PAY RENT.
HUH?

I STILL
CAN'T
CONTACT
THE LAND-
LORD.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



AH.

GIVE ME
THOSE
CLOTHES
YOU'RE
WEARING
TOO.

I'LL BE
GOING TO
THE COIN
LAUNDRY
AFTER
THIS.

I'LL
BE LEAVING
TODAY.

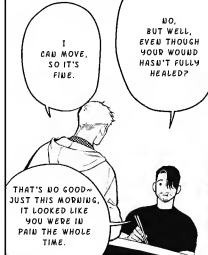


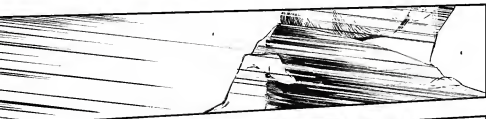
HE
CAN'T
MEET MY
EYES,
HUH?

SIP...

DID
HE DECIDE
TO ACT
LIKE
"THAT"
DIDN'T
HAPPEN?

...IT'S
BETTER
THAT
WAY.







NO,
I—

I KEPT MY
MOUTH SHUT,
AND NOW
YOU'RE GOING
AROUND ACTING
LIKE YOU'RE MY
GUARDIAN JUST
BECAUSE YOU
SAVED ME
ONCE?



DID YOU
THINK I
WOULD JUST
WAG MY TAIL
LIKE A GOOD
LITTLE DOGGY
IF YOU FED
ME?



HEY.

ARE YOU
LOOKING
DOWN ON
ME?



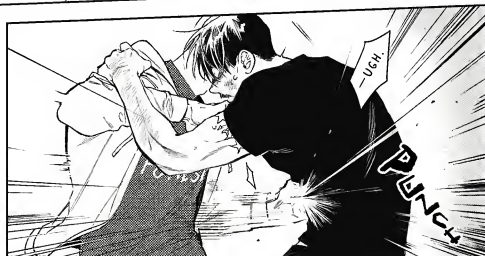
UGH.

SHUT
UP!!

THAT'S
WHY I
CAN'T
ALLOW
MYSELF
TO GET
USED
TO IT.

UP
UNTIL
NOW,
AND
EVEN
AFTER
THIS.

THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING AS
KINDNESS
WITHOUT
EXPECTING
ANYTHING
IN RETURN.



THIS
IS FINE.

IF
YOU TELL
ANYONE
ABOUT ME,
EVEN A LITTLE,
I'LL KILL
YOU.

JUST
THINK OF
YOURSELF
AS HAVING
SHITTY
LUCK.

DON'T
PITY ME.
DON'T
SYMPATHIZE
WITH ME.

—WAIT,
MIKE.

IF
YOU DON'T
WANT TO BE
WITH ME
RIGHT
NOW,

I CAN
LEAVE FOR
A LITTLE
WHILE.





I'D
RATHER YOU
CURSE AT ME,
HATE ME.



THAT'S
WHY I'M
BEGGING YOU,
PLEASE STAY
HERE JUST
A LITTLE
LONGER.

I
REALLY AM
WORRIED ABOUT
YOU.





EAT
SHIT.







PRETENDING
TO BE STRONG,
OR BEGGING FOR
THEIR LIFE.
...BUT HE—

THIS
IS THE
NORMAL
REACTION!

THAT'S
RIGHT!





WHAT
THE
HELL...?



I'LL
REMEMBER
THIS!

PASH



...!!

DISAPPEAR.

IF I
SEE YOU
AGAIN, I'LL
BE STABBING
A KNIFE INTO
YOUR NECK.

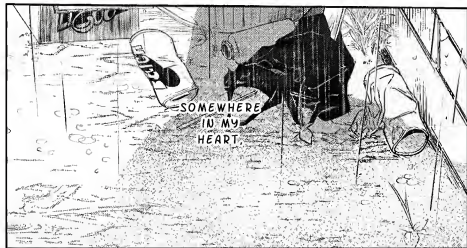


HUH?



GUH...

Slide...





A
CACOPHONY
OF "MAYBES"
CONTINUES
TO BE
WHISPERED.

MAYBE

IF
IT'S HIM,
EVEN SOMEONE
LIKE ME...



COIN LAUNDROMAT



MIKE...?







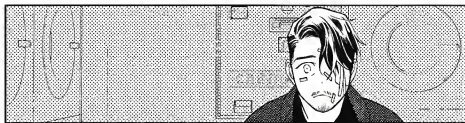
WHY AREN'T
YOU GETTING
ANGRY WITH
ME!!?

ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT!?

DON'T
JUST STAND
THERE AND
STARE
BLANKLY!!



I'M
THE ONE
WHO PUT YOU
IN THAT SORRY
STATE!!



UM...

I
WANTED
TO SAY
THIS AT
FIRST,

BUT
THEN I
GOT EMBARRASSED,
SO I COULDN'T,
BUT...

I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
DYING.

MIKE,
ON THAT
DAY YOU
CAME TO
ME.



NOT
BECAUSE IT
WAS HARD
OR BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO DIE,

BUT,
IN REALITY...
WHEN I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT JUST
GIVING UP,



I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
REASON I
HAD TO
GRIT MY
TEETH AND
LIVE FOR.



YOU
CLUNG ON
TO ME BECAUSE
YOU WANTED
TO LIVE.

YOU
CAME TO
ME.



YOU
SAVED
ME.



IT
DOESN'T CHANGE
THE FACT THAT
I WAS THE ONE
WHO WAS SAVED
FIRST.

IT
WAS JUST
BY CHANCE,
WASN'T
IT?

BUT



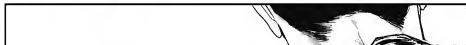
THAT'S WHY,
NO MATTER
HOW ANGRY
YOU GOT,

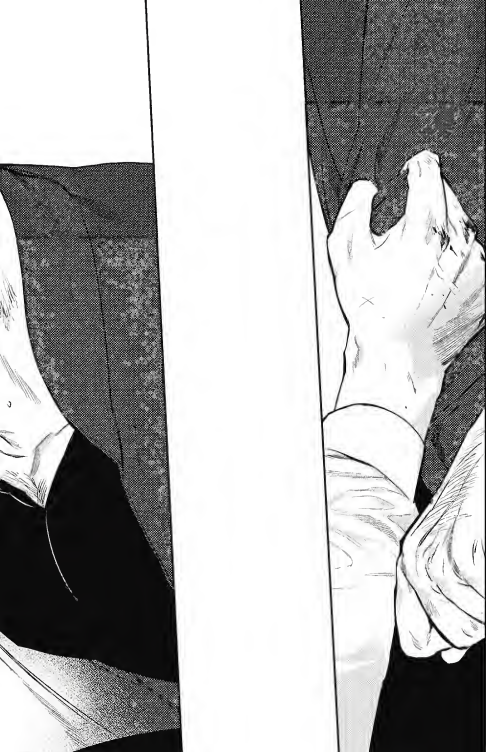
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU MESSED
ME UP, IT
WAS FINE.

WHAT'S MORE,
I GOT AROUSED AND
DID SUCH AN
IMPULSIVE THING TO
YOU... THE NEXT
MORNING, IT SEEMED
LIKE I SAID SOME-
THING WRONG,
TOO.

I
THOUGHT
IT WAS ONLY
NATURAL YOU
WOULD HATE
ME.









TO BE CONTINUED





I DIDN'T
INTEND...

FOR
THINGS
TO TURN
OUT THIS
WAY...



DO
YOU HATE
IT?



...
YOU.



...
DOES
IT LOOK
LIKE I
DO?







EVEN THOUGH I
WAS DESPERATELY
TRYING TO HOLD
MYSELF BACK...

I'M
GRATEFUL
THAT YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
TAKING RES-
PONSIBILITY
FOR IT.

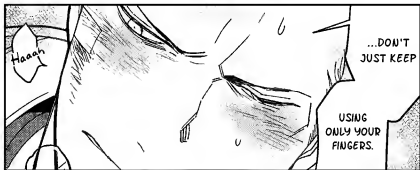
HASN'T
HIS PER-
SONALITY
CHANGED
A LITTLE
...?

Twitch
Ugh.
Hah...

RRRR
RRRR

Ugh.

LAUNDRY





AH.



TAKE YOURS
OUT TOO!

GRAB

ACTING
ALL CALM,
EVEN THOUGH
YOU'VE BEEN
ERECT SINCE
THE VERY
BEGIN-
NING...



...STANDS PROUD



THAT'S
WHY I WANTED
TO TAKE THE TIME
TO STRETCH YOU
OUT, BUT...

SURPRIS-
ED?

Swf...

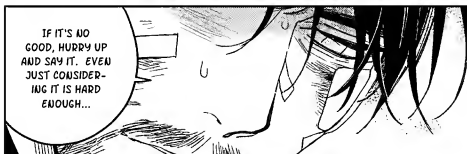
YOU SAID
YOU WOULD
TAKE RESPON-
SIBILITY AND
ALL THAT,
BUT...

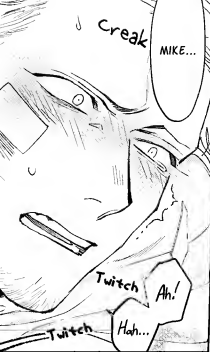


HIS
CHEST
WAS NOT
THE ONLY
THING
THAT WAS
HUGE.

GULP







Creak

MIKE...

Twitch

Ah!

Hah...

Twitch



MIKE...

Glench

I THOUGHT SO, BUT...



IT'S IN.

SHOVE

squeeze

A-AH,
DON'T
MOVE
YET-



SHOVE ...ah.

Shlop

Na

Schlick

Haah.

Schlick



Ah...

creak

Ah!

!!

Slide

Midnight Rain

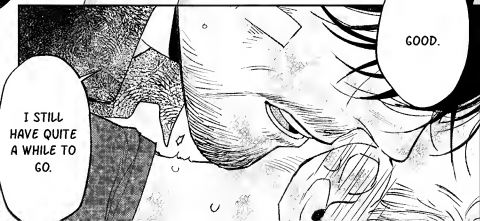
Chapter 4 Part 2

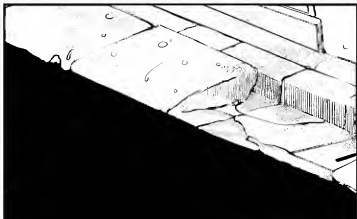
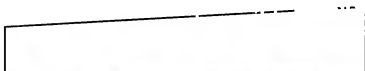
B-BOY P!

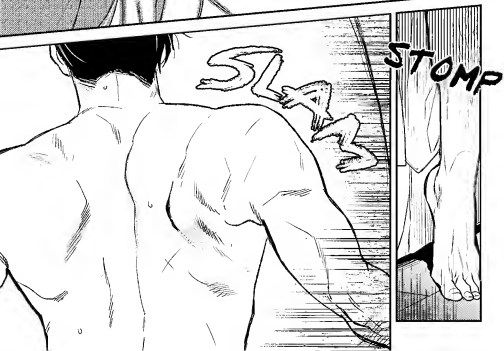
CTK





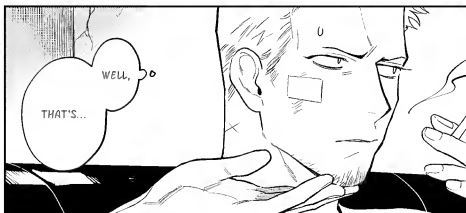
















WHAT
ABOUT
SUGAR?

DON'T
NEED
ANY.



?



HIS BODY HEAT

TELLS ME THAT
IT'S FINE.

LIKE I'M BEING
COMFORTED!



...AM I
ALSO

BEING
AFFECTED BY HIS
STUPIDITY...?



HERE
YOU GO.

WELL, IT
MIGHT NOT
BE TOO BAD
EITHER.

AHH, I
DON'T GET IT
ANYMORE.

WHATEVER
HAPPENS,
HAPPENS.

To be
continued...



CURRENT
POLITICAL
NEWS-

AMERICA'S
WEEKLY
BILLBOARD
CHART-

Pwip
WHAT
MAKES BORDER
COLLIES DIFFER-
ENT FROM OTHER
DOGS,

IS THEIR
ABILITY TO SOLVE
PROBLEMS BY
THINKING FOR
THEMSELVES-

Midnight Rain

Chapter 5 Part 1

..... B-BOY P!

CTK

YOU
LIKE DOGS,
MIKE?

IS THERE
ANYONE WHO
DOESN'T LIKE
THEM?



COLLIES ARE
EXTREMELY
FRIENDLY,
SOCIABLE,

AND AFFEC-
TIONATE.



GEEZ, WHAT
IS IT?

CAN'T
YOU SEE I'M
WATCHING
TV?

MIKE.

MIKE.



THEY'RE
DEVOTED
TO THEIR
OWNERS,

THEY'RE
SMART,

HA HA

FOUR

THEY'RE
FLUFFY,

AND
THEY'RE
CUTE.



...



RIGHT?

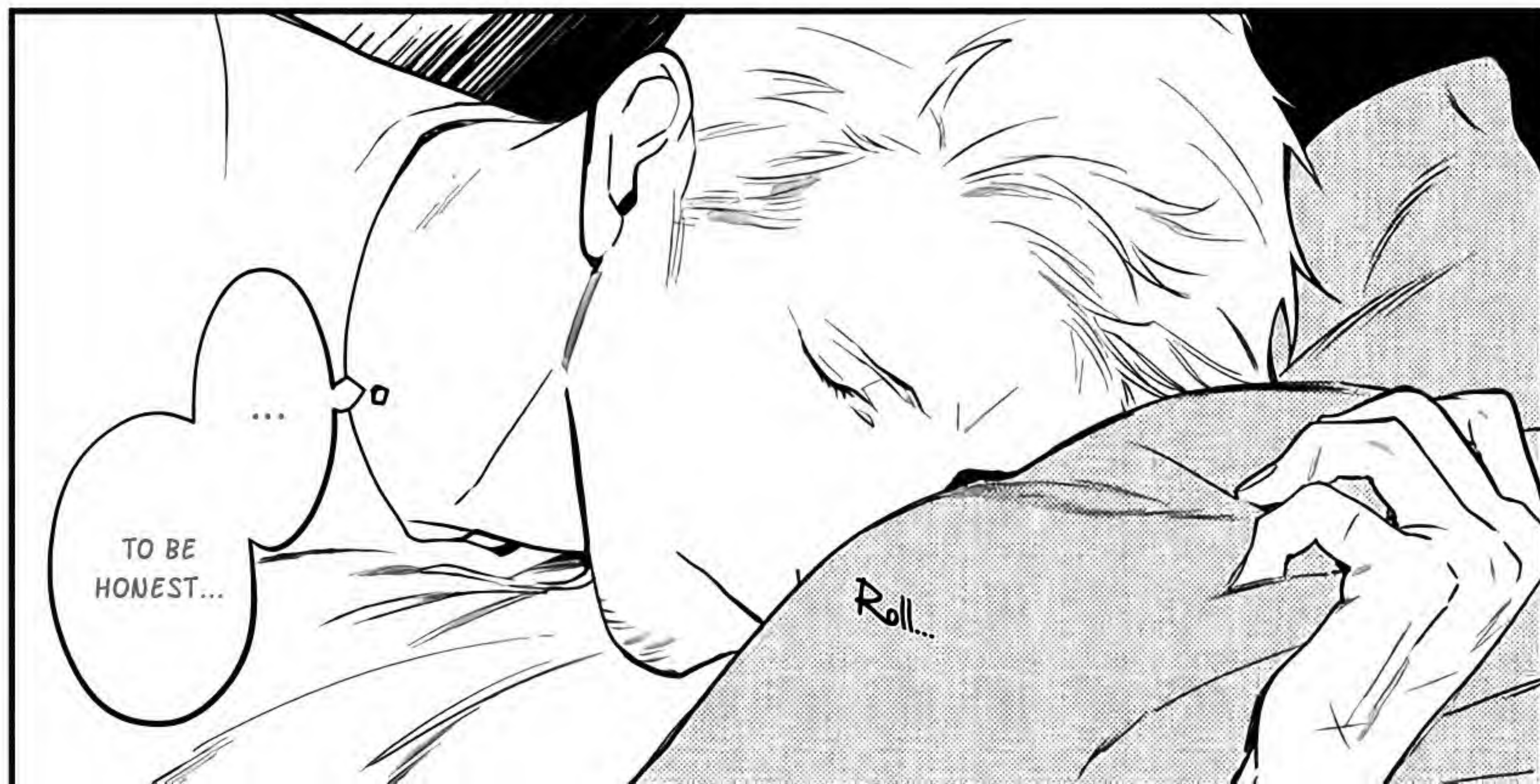
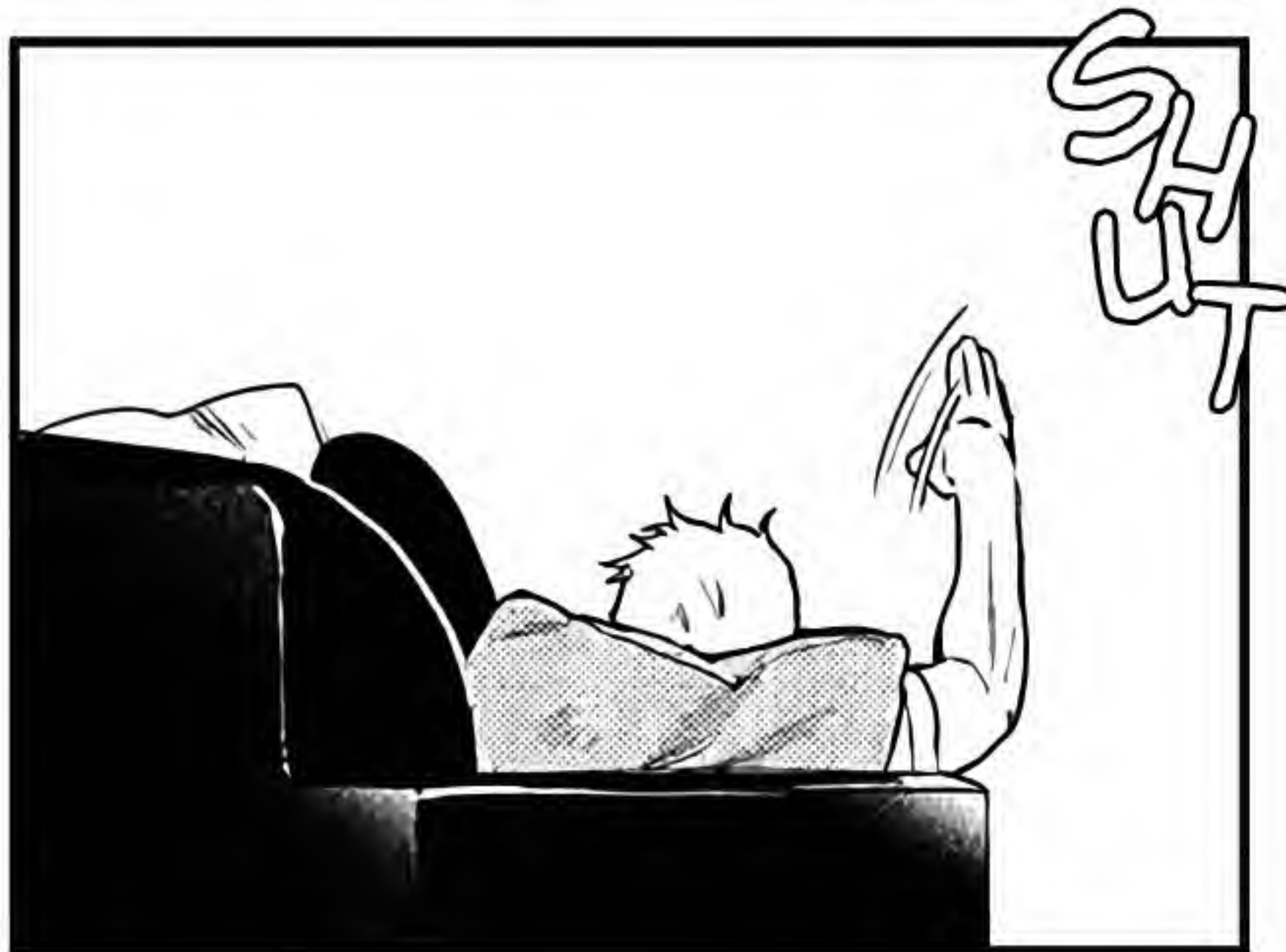
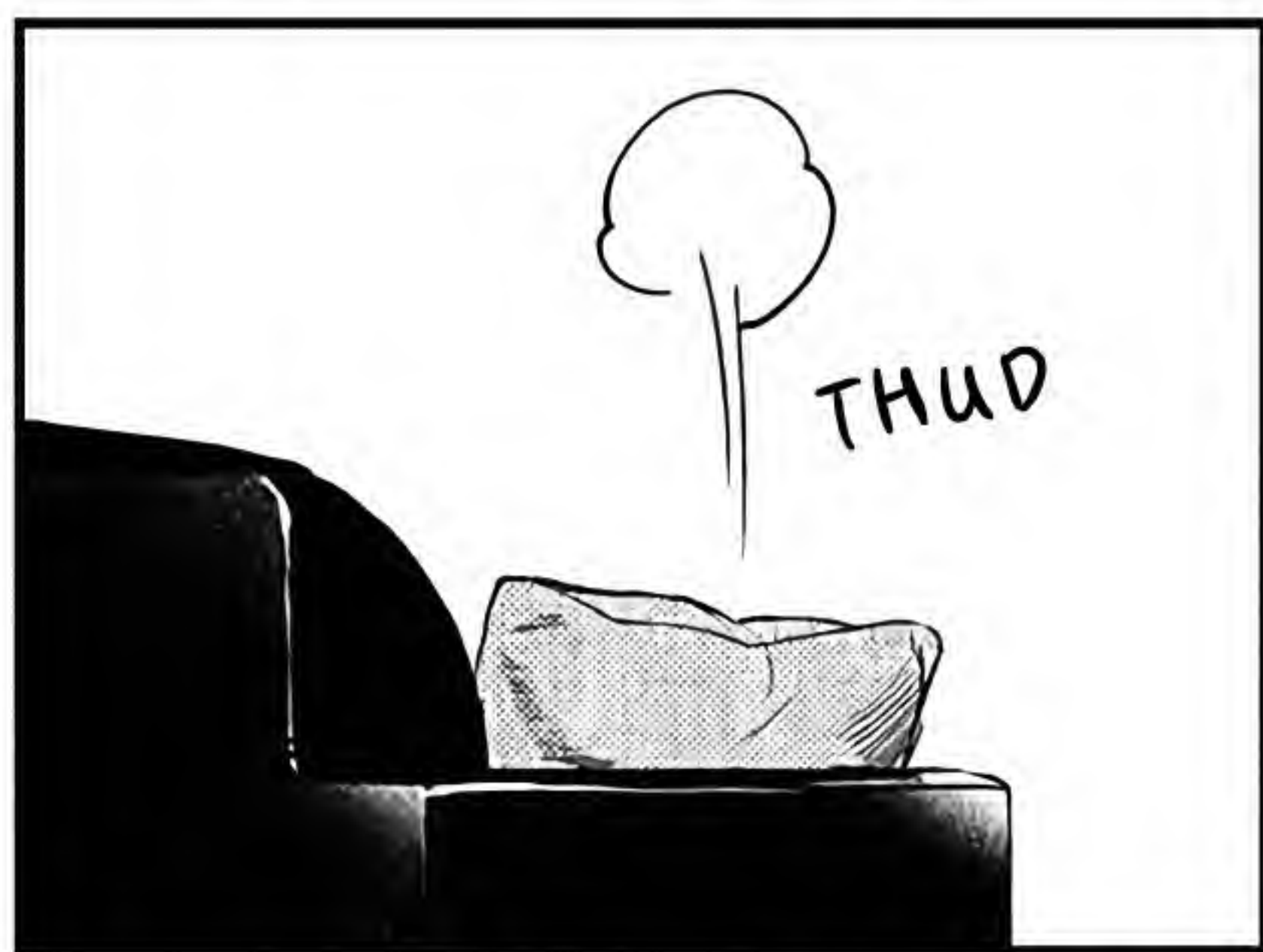
AND AFFEC-
TIONATE.

I'M
FLUFFY,
CUTE,







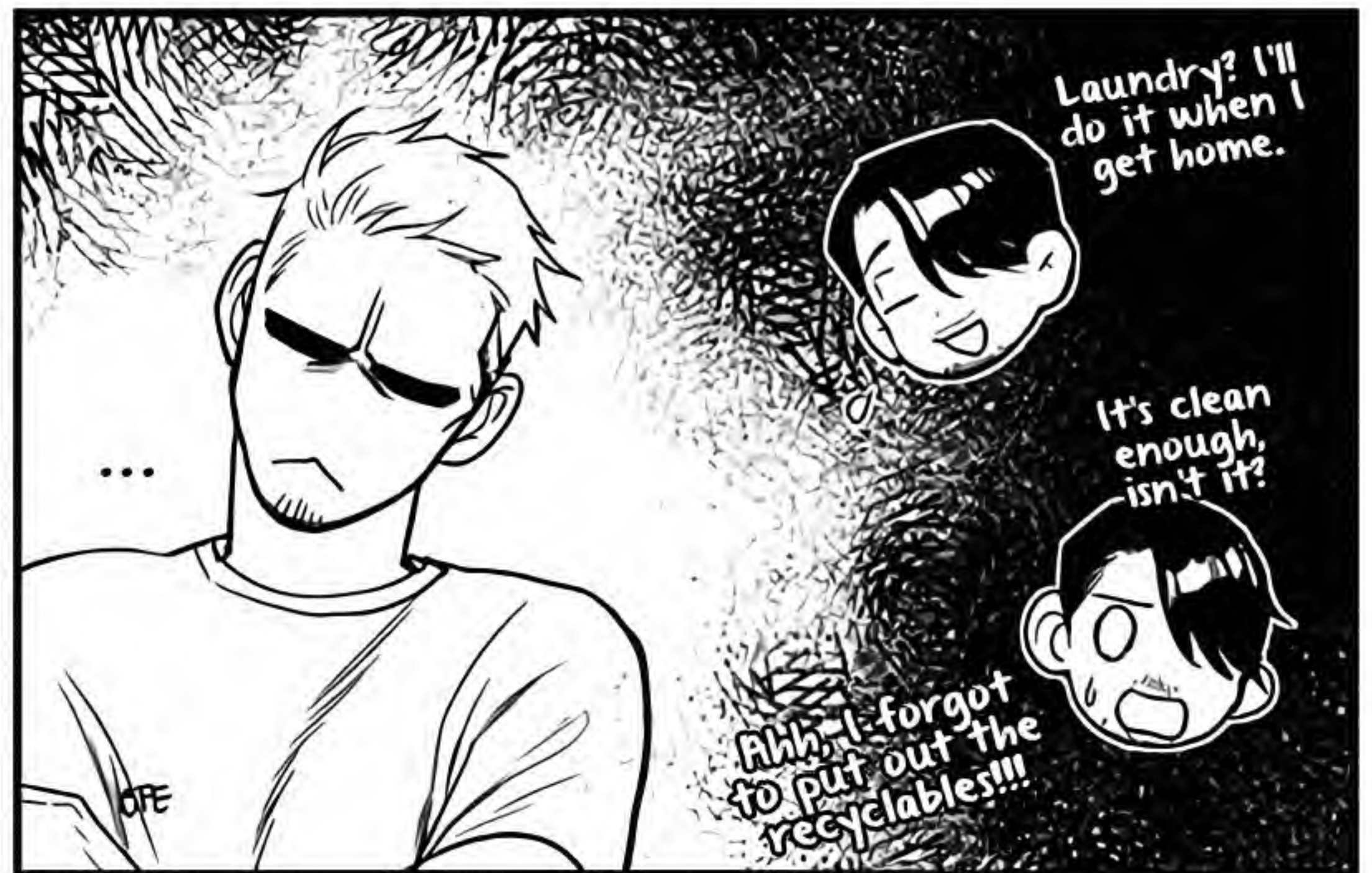




I'M COMFORTABLE...











THE
DOOR'S
OPEN.



HM?

THEY PROBABLY
HEARD US WHEN
WE MADE NOISE
TOO.



IS ETHAN BACK?

NO, HE SAID HE
WOULD BE BACK AT
DAWN.

I CAN SENSE SOMEONE
INSIDE.

I DIDN'T LOCK THE DOOR, BUT I
WAS COMING BACK QUICKLY.

THIEVES.




RRR—

SNEAK



CREAAAK

RRR—



SWF





I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
DRINKING
THAT BEER
TONIGHT.

WORK.

SO, WHERE'S
ETHAN?



HMPH.

TO ME,
YOU'RE MUCH
MORE SUSPI-
CIOUS.

...SUSPICIOUS.

I'M
JUST AN OLD
FRIEND.

Gulp

Gulp



HE'S NEVER
FORGOTTEN ABOUT
COLLECTION DAY,
COULD IT BE THAT
HE'S SO BUSY THAT
IT SLIPPED HIS
MIND?

I SYMPA-
THIZE WITH HIS
CIRCUMSTANCES,
SO HE SHOULDN'T
FEEL THE NEED TO
PUSH HIMSELF
SO HARD...



NO. WE'RE NOT
CLOSE ENOUGH
FOR THAT, AND
IT'S NOT LIKE I
CONTACT HIM
DAILY.

IS HE
WORKING AT
THE FACTORY
MORE?



DIDN'T
YOU KNOW
ABOUT IT?

HE SAID HE
HAD A LOT OF
WORK TO DO.



WHAT?



JUST
HOW LONG
DOES HE PLAN
TO SIT THERE?
I WANNA HURRY
UP AND DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT
MOLD.

COULD IT BE BECAUSE
OF THIS GUY?



TELL HIM
WHAT?

RATTLE

I'M
GOING.

TELL
ETHAN
THIS.



DON'T YOU
DARE GIVE ME
YOUR COLD.

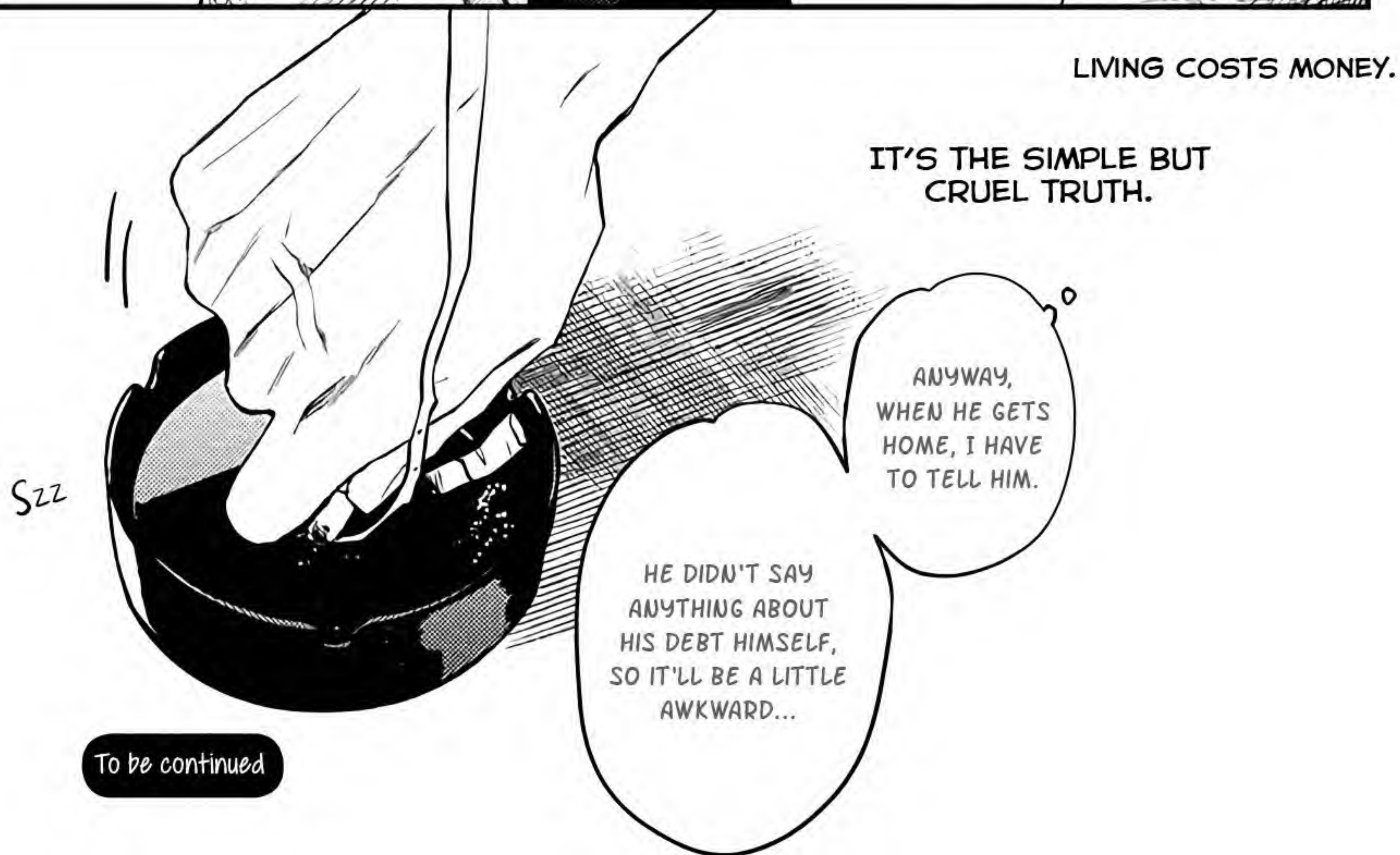
AH-CHOO!

Ethan
at the
mo-
ment



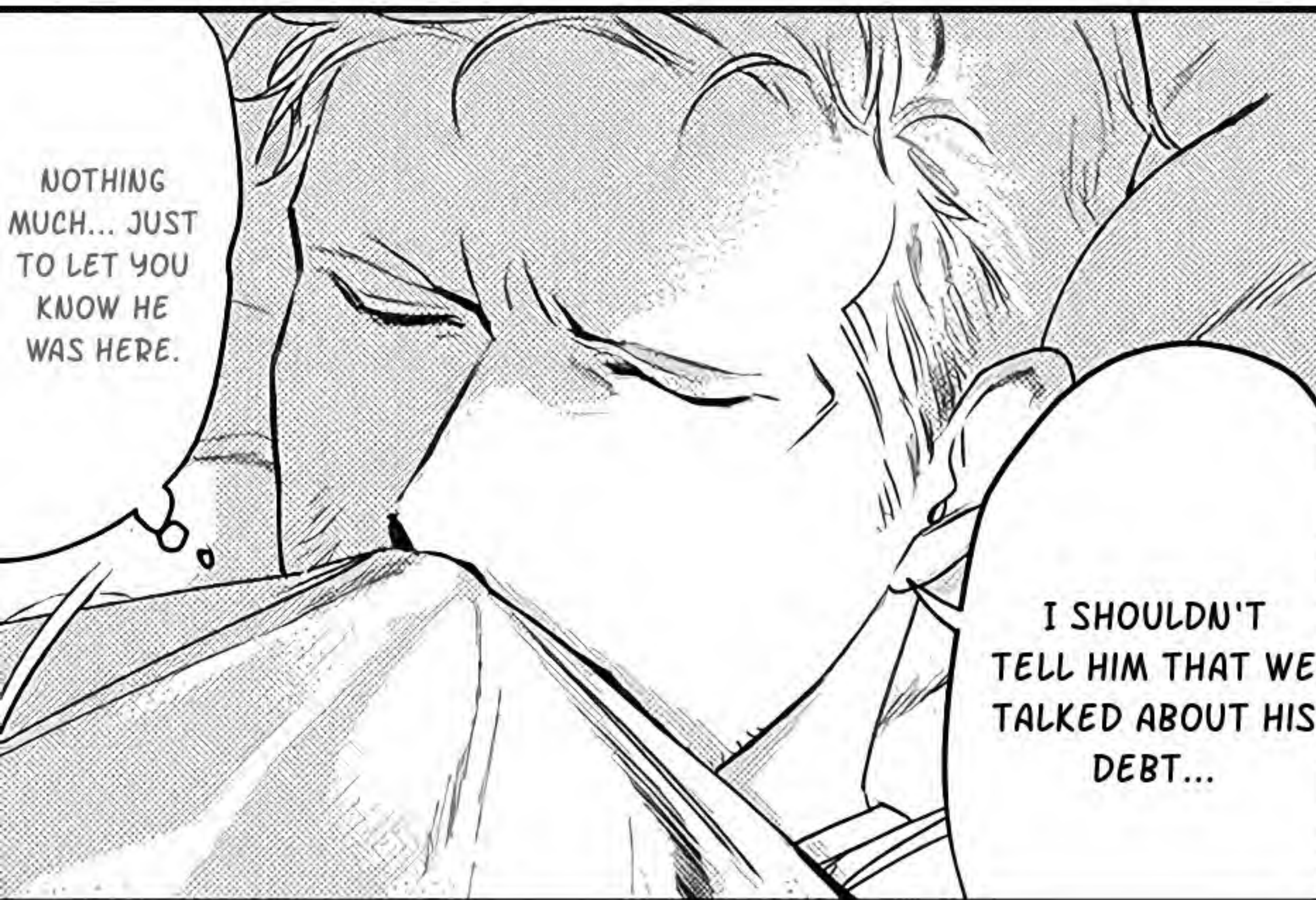
TELL HIM
TO MAKE THIS
MONTH'S PAYMENT
PROPERLY.





To be continued









HE TOLD
YOU ABOUT IT?

THE FACT
THAT I'M
IN DEBT.




I WAS THINKING
THAT MAYBE, JUST
MAYBE, I ACCIDENTALLY
SAID OUT LOUD WHAT I
WAS INTENDING TO KEEP
QUIET ABOUT, BUT...



AH...

UMM...
HEY...

BOURNE



AH, IS
THAT
SO...?

YEAH.

SO
THAT'S
WHAT IT
WAS.



NO,
WELL...

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMMMBLE

THAT OLD
GEEZER
ABRUPTLY
SAID THAT
AND LEFT,

SO I
DIDN'T HEAR
ANY DETAILS.



DID YOU
GAMBLE OR SOME-
THING WHEN YOU
WERE YOUNGER?

WHY'D
YOU GO AND
DO SOMETHING
AS STUPID AS
GETTING YOUR-
SELF INTO
DEBT?

SHIVER

IS HE MAD?

DID I SAY
SOMETHING?
NO, MORE IM-
PORTANTLY,

NO,

WAIT,

THIS
GUY...

CREAK

I'M JUST
JOKING...

IS HE
THE TYPE
WHO FLIPS OUT
WHEN HE GETS
PISSED...?!



BWAAAAA.
I DIDN'T
GAMBLE OR
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

OF COURSE
I DIDN'T,
I'M POOR!

I WONDER
WHY THAT
OLD GEEZER
IS TELLING
EVERYONE.

I'LL HAVE
TO TELL HIM
OFF WHEN I
CONTACT HIM
TOMORROW.

....!



IRK

...WHAT?

HE DOESN'T
NEED TO REMIND
ME OF THAT SO
MUCH...



...I'M FINE, SO
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.



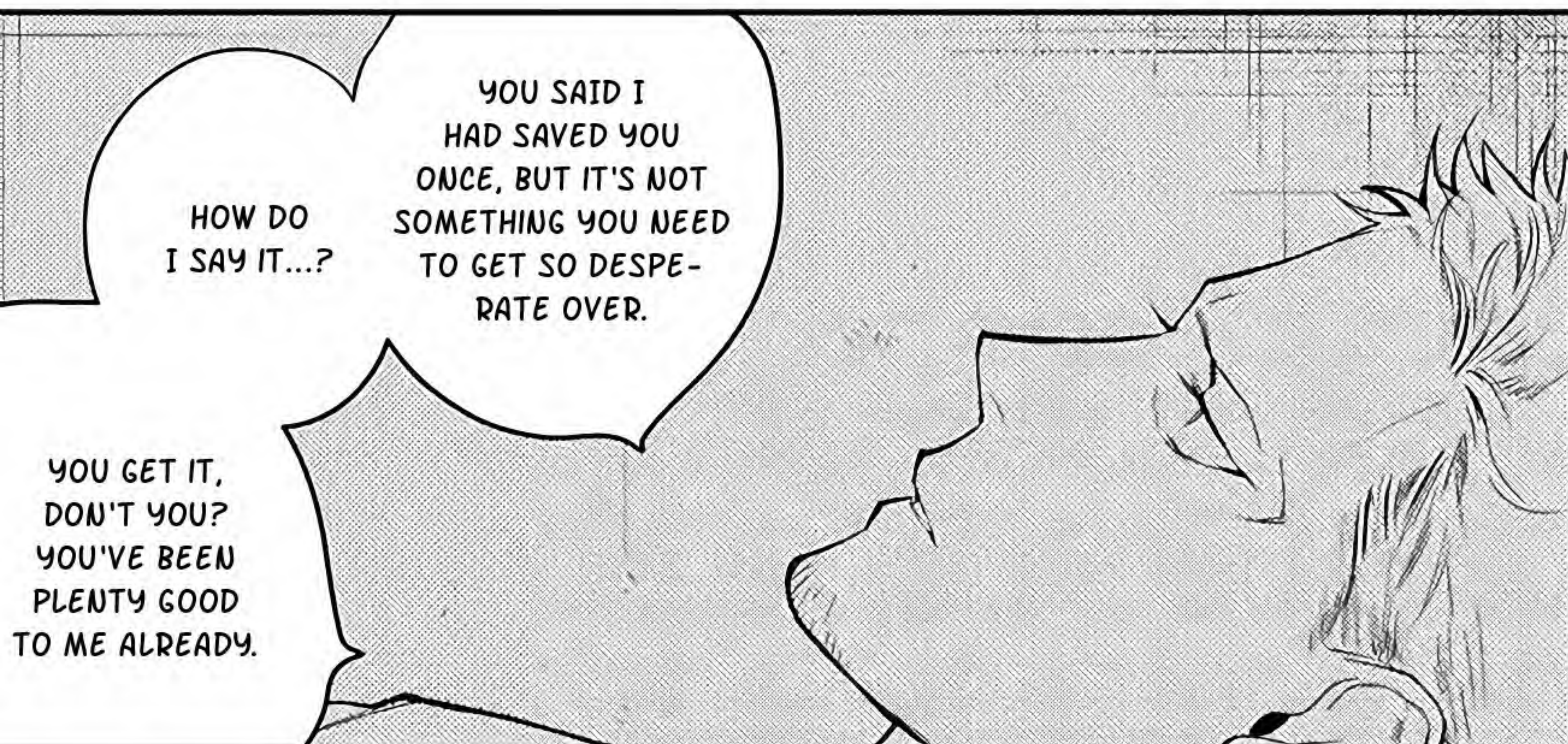
I...



...I
FREAKED
OUT WHEN
I COULDN'T
SEE HIS FACE
DUE TO THE
LIGHTNING.

IF IT
WASN'T A BIG
DEAL, THEN
WHY DID HE
SOUND SO
PANICKED?

I'LL KICK
HIM OUT OF
THE BED, THE
BASTARD.





IT'S BECAUSE I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.

IF I SEEM DESPERATE, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF MONEY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO YOU, BUT IT'S FINE NOT TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY.



IF HE'S SAYING ALL THAT,

THEN IT'S NONE OF MY CONCERN, RIGHT?



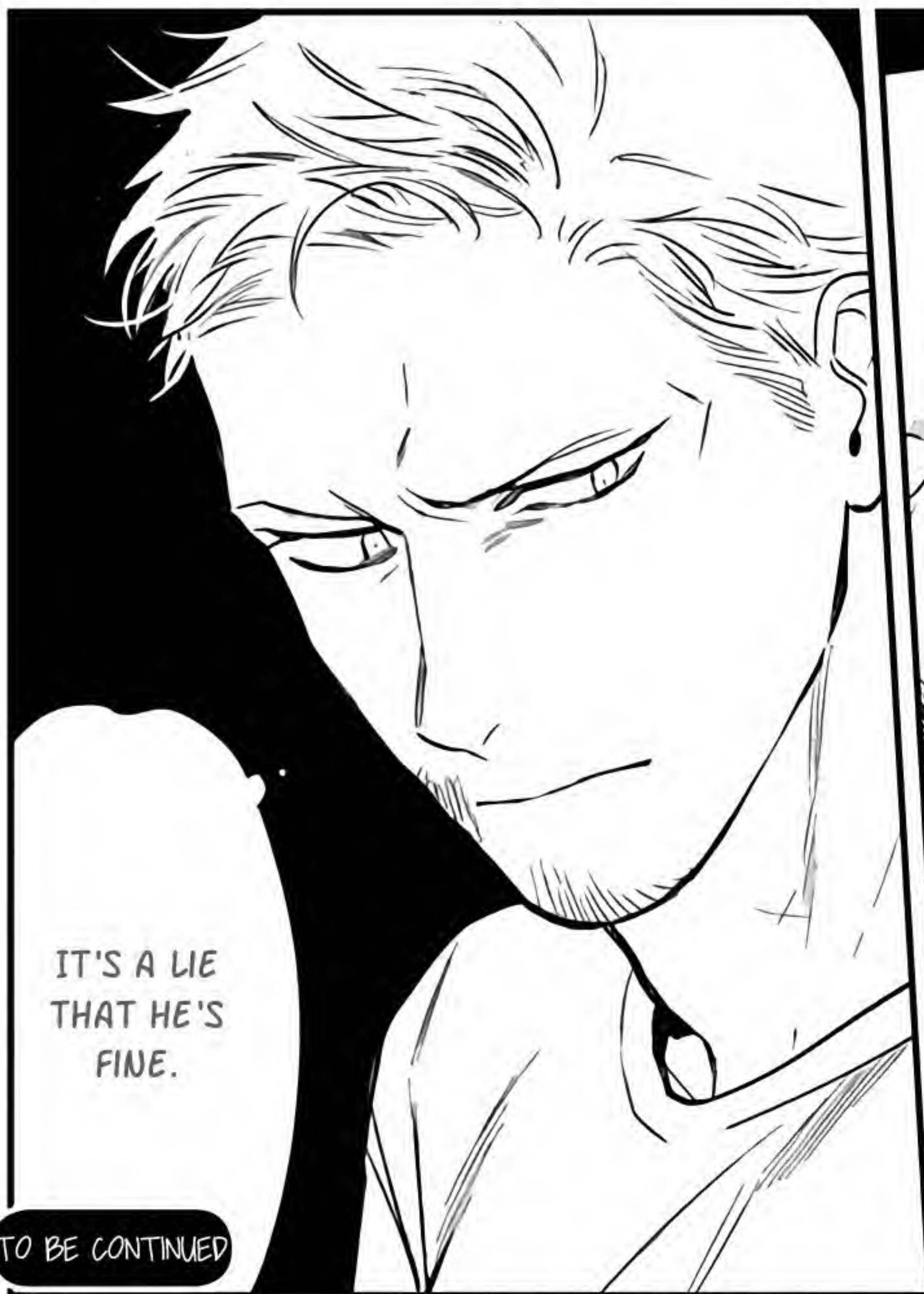
I WASN'T.

THE MAN HIMSELF IS
SAYING HE'S FINE.

HE'S ALWAYS BEING SO FLIPPANT
AND MAKING DUMB JOKES.



"I WAS THINKING
ABOUT DYING."



IT'S A LIE
THAT HE'S
FINE.

TO BE CONTINUED



ZZZZ

RUFFLE...

I'M
HOOOOME.

Midnight Rain

Chapter 6

8:00 PM

CTK

YEAH. TODAY IS MY
BOSS'S DAUGHTER'S
BIRTHDAY

HE SAID
THERE WERE
A LOT OF STORES
THAT CLOS'D AT
THIS TIME ANYWAY
AND THEN...

HUH, YOU'RE
HOME EARLY
TODAY.

HUH?

I bought you
some clothes!

Mine are
a bit too big
for you, so it's
inconvenient,
right?



WON'T
YOU TRY
THIS ON?



COME ON,
MIKE.

I TOLD
YOU, YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT A
THING.



...YOU MET UP
WITH THAT GEEZER
AND TALKED IT OUT
PROPERLY,
RIGHT?

AND DESPITE
ALL THAT, YOU
STILL HAVE
MONEY TO BUY
STUFF?

YEAH I
TOLD HIM TO
STOP COMING IN
WITHOUT PER-
MISSION.



YOU PUT IT
ON, YOU HUGE
IDIOT!!



I BOUGHT
THESE FOR
YOU,

SO THEY'RE A
LITTLE SMALL
FOR ME...



HUH?

SLAM



I WANT
TO BE ABLE TO
GIVE HIM TONS OF
BETTER THINGS,
WITHOUT HAVING
TO CHECK IF IT'S
OKAY FIRST.

THAT'S HOW
I REALLY
FEEL.



IT'S NOT
LIKE I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY MIKE GOT
MAD, BUT...



THERE WERE
SOME PRETTY DECENT
ONES OUT OF WHAT I
BOUGHT, THOUGH. I
WONDER IF HE'D
WEAR THEM...

...LET'S SLIP
THEM INTO THE
DRESSER.



AND BESIDES, I
BOUGHT THESE AT THE
THRIFT STORE FOR SO
CHEAP THAT I ALMOST
FEEL GUILTY FOR MAK-
ING HIM MAD OVER
ME SPENDING
MONEY



Clang



KICK



Whack



I CAN'T
STAND HIS
POINTLESS
SPENDING BUT
WHAT I CAN'T
STAND EVEN
MORE...



IS HOW
HE'S PRETEND-
ING NOTHING'S
WRONG EVEN
AFTER I FOUND
OUT ABOUT HIS
CIRCUM-
STANCES.



Mighty Mikey
Mike! Been a
while! It's me,
Jerry.

...HELLO.

Beep

!

WHAT IS IT?

Sorry, sorry
By the way...

THAT'S
UP TO ME,
ISN'T IT?

Hahaha,
that's true

I COULD
NOT PAY THE
PHONE BILL,
SO THEY SUS-
PENDED
IT.

You didn't
contact me at
all, I thought you
were dead

Huh? Use a
prepaid phone
No bill that way,
right?

Are you still
in Wayne?

I GOT INJURED.

ARE YOU
TRYING TO PICK
A FIGHT NOW?

For real?
Who'd you pick
a fight with this
time?

What part of
you got broken
this time?

MM.



!

It's okay if you take your next job in Alexandria, too

Sounds good, yeah?
We'll reward you handsomely to celebrate your return

All you have to do is pick up the goods in Wayne, and bring them down to Alexandria.

You'll need to take a long-distance bus, which sucks, but you're already used to that, right?

Great! You'll be needing a way to make a quick buck soon, no?

A perfect job just came in.



THAT'S...

Huuut? Why?

...I'll CONSIDER IT.

You'll do it, right?

...YEAH?



YOU'RE WRONG!

ILL DO IT!

TWITCH

YOU'RE-

Ah, could it be you've got a girl there?

Is there something making you hesitate?

WELCOME HOME NIKE!
DID YOU EAT YET?



DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.



You'd better
be up your
loose ends
properly

Okay. We're
leaving in three
days. I'll call you
again before
then.

Well then,
bye-bye!

Beep

...I
GOT IT.



ANYWAY,
TRYING TO GET
HIM TO OPEN UP
ABOUT IT SEEMS
TROUBLESOME.

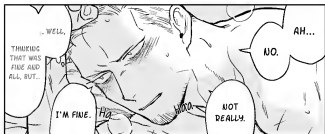
HE'S THE
ONE LYING
AND HIDING
THINGS FROM
ME, ISN'T
HE?

...THAT'S
RIGHT.

I'VE ALREADY
TAKEN A LONG
ENOUGH BREAK,
SO I SHOULD LEAVE
BEFORE THAT
HAPPENS.

THE DAY HIS
BENEVOLENCE
RUNS OUT WILL
COME.

HE'S BEEN
LIVING ALL ON
HIS OWN, SO HE
PROBABLY JUST
GOT THE WRONG
IDEA, RIGHT?



WHEN I
LOOK INTO
HIS EYES,
FULL OF
DESIRE
FOR ME,

I FEEL
STRANGELY
CONTENT...

!!

Swf

WELL
THEN,

BUT...

Haa

Nn

Shiver
Shove

Twitich

SHALL WE
CONTINUE?

Shiver
Shove

Haaaah...

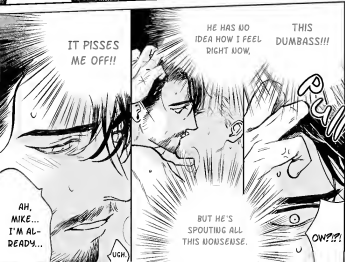
Twitich

Shove...

Twitich











...WELL THEN,
I'LL WAIT UP FOR
YOU UNTIL YOU
GET HOME.

DON'T BE
TOO LATE.

I HAVE
SOMETHING I
WANT TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT.

...YEAH.

UNDERSTOOD.





I'M NOT
INTERESTED
IN HELPING HIM
PAY BACK HIS
DEBT.

AND I HAVE
NO INTENTION
TO PRESS HIM
ABOUT IT, BE-
CAUSE I KNOW
IT'D JUST BE
AWKWARD.

BUT...



IT'S NOT
LIKE I WAS
GOING TO
TALK HIM
ANYTHING
IMPORTANT.

JUST THAT
IT WAS ABOUT
TIME FOR ME
TO GO SINCE
MY WOUND'S
ALL HEALED,
AND THAT I'M
GRATEFUL FOR
EVERYTHING...



Heeah

Heeah



HE NEVER
ASKED ME
ABOUT ANY-
THING.

IT WAS
EASIER FOR
ME THAT WAY
TOO.



IT'S NOT
LIKE I PARTICU-
LARLY KNOW MUCH
ABOUT ETHAN.

AH, BUT
IT'S....

IF HE DOESN'T
COME HOME, I
CAN'T TELL HIM
ANYTHING I DON'T
KNOW WHERE HE
WORKS EITHER.
SO I CAN ONLY
WAIT



IT'S THE
SAME FOR
HIM.

HE DOESN'T
KNOW MUCH
ABOUT ME.

...HIS WAY OF
THINKING WAS
ABNORMAL.

RIGHT FROM
THE START.

SINCE
HE WORRIED
ABOUT ME LIKE
THAT.

IT'S
ALRIGHT, MIKE.
IT'S ALRIGHT.

Don't get
so friendly
with me. It's
disastrous.

Snifle

NO, GO
AWAY

Wanna go
out somewhere
for fun?

I DIDN'T
ANSWER HIM
PROPERLY.

WE HAD SOME
CONVERSATIONS
WHEN I DECIDED
TO STAY, BUT...

TO KEEP HIM
FROM TAKING
AN INTEREST
IN ME,

I ACTED LIKE
A THUG SO HE
WOULDN'T GET
TOO DEEPLY
INVOLVED...

...THAT'S
WHY.

SQUEEZE



THIS...

IS THE
KIND OF GUY
I AM, SO...

IS THIS WHY I
COULDN'T OPEN UP
MY HEART TO HIM
ABOUT EVERY-
THING?



JERRY

Bzz

...IT'S
FINE.

HE'S SO
TERRIBLE AT
HIDING IT THAT
IT'S IRRITATING
AND IT PISSES
ME OFF.

I ADMIT
THAT I CARE.

EVERYTHING
ISN'T FINE.

DAMN IT.



AH,
DAMN IT.

THINKING ABOUT
ALL THIS FOR SO
LONG, MAKES ME
WANT TO SEE HIM
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.



I WANT HIM
TO SHOW ME
HIS WEAK
SIDE TOO.

AT THE VERY
LEAST, I WANT HIM
TO RELY ON ME,
EVEN IF IT'S JUST
AS SOMEONE TO
TALK TO.

I DON'T
WANT TO LEAVE
WHEN THINGS ARE
LIKE THIS.



I HAVE
SOMEONE
WAITING, SO
I CAN'T
WAIT HERE
FOREVER.

There's
something
wrong
with me.

NO NO NO
MY HEART'S
GROWN WEAK
BECAUSE I'VE
BEEN SO COM-
FORTABLE!!



UGY
AHH!!

MIKE!!



YOU'RE
STILL HERE.

YOU'RE
LATE!!

DO YOU
KNOW JUST
HOW LONG I
WAITED...? NO
I MEAN IM
LEAVING NOW!!

W-W-
WHAT
THE
HELL?!!

Wipe
Wipe

GOOD...

GOOD-
BYE...

YOU...
WHAT...?!

...?!

SORRY FOR
MAKING YOU
WAIT.

TO BE CONTINUED

SAY
SOME-
THING!

WHAT'S
WITH YOUR
FACE?

HE HAS
HIS BAG...

W-

Midnight Rain
Chapter 9

ILLUSTRATION BY

CTK





PHEEW.



I DIDN'T HAVE
ANY WAY TO CON-
TACT YOU... I'M
GLAD I MADE IT

TALK
AFTER
YOU LET
GO OF
ME, YOU
BASTARD

...?! HEY LET
GO OF ME!!

I THOUGHT YOU
MIGHT HAVE LEFT
ALREADY BUT...



UNSCATHED

IS IT
REALLY THE
TIME FOR
YOU TO BE
SAVING STUFF
LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE ALL
COVERED IN
BLOOD.

LET'S
TREAT YOUR
WOUNDS
FIRST.

I SAID
"LET GO",
DIDN'T I?!

Liyah



I GOT
INTO A BIT
OF A FIGHT,
BUT I DIDN'T
GET HURT
ALL THAT
MUCH.

THAT'S
NOT IT.

...?!

...WERE YOU
WORKING AT A
BUTCHER'S
SHOP?





FOR
NOW, JUST
SLAP SOME
BANDAGES
ON YOUR
WOUNDS

I'M STABBING.
I'LL CHANGE,
SO—

WHY DON'T WE
DISCUSS WHAT HAPPENED
AND WHAT YOU WANTED
TO TALK ABOUT AT THE
DINER AROUND THE
CORNER?

THANK YOU
FOR WORRYING
ABOUT ME.



FWOOSH



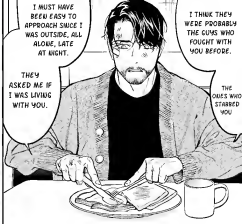
WHEN I
WAS GOING HOME
AFTER WORK, THESE
GUNS SUDDENLY
STOPPED ME.



AHH,
THOSE
GUYS...

I remember
this!

THEY
ASKED ME IF
I WAS LIVING
WITH YOU.



I MUST HAVE
BEEN EASY TO
APPROACH SINCE I
WAS OUTSIDE, ALL
ALONE, LATE
AT NIGHT.

I THINK THEY
WERE PROBABLY
THE GUYS WHO
FOUGHT WITH
YOU BEFORE.

THE
ONES WHO
STARRED
YOU



Chew

Chew

Chew



THAT'S
BECAUSE I
ANSWERED
THEM WITH
THAT.

Are they
detectives?

BUT HOW DID
THEY KNOW?
IT'S NOT LIKE
WE REALLY
WENT OUT
TOGETHER



AH, IS
THAT SO.



SWALLOW

It seems like
they weren't
sure, either.





THANKS TO A
FRIEND OF MY
FATHER'S IN THE
ORGANIZATION,
I WAS ABLE TO
PAY IT BACK
BIT BY BIT.



OF COURSE.
IT WAS ALSO
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO
PAY IT BACK,
BUT...

MAKES ME
SO HAPPY,
EVEN THOUGH
I KNOW IT'S
CHILDISH.

RAGING
AGAINST AND
RESENTING MY
SITUATION
CHANGED
NOTHING,
SO...

I LIVED
ON LIKE THAT,
UNABLE TO GAIN
ANYTHING, UN-
ABLE TO DREAM
ABOUT ANY-
THING.

MY
FATHER.

HE PUT
HIMSELF IN
DEBT BY
GAMBLING.

WAITED UNTIL
DAYBREAK
FOR ME...

HE BOR-
ROWED THAT
MONEY ILLE-
GALLY, FROM
A GANG IN
THIS CITY.

SO
NATURALLY,
MY FATHER
WAS UNABLE
TO PAY BACK
THE DEBT
BEFORE HE
DIED.

THAT DEBT
WAS THEN
PASSED ON
TO ME.



UM, MIKE.
HEAR ME
OUT.



THE
FACT THAT
YOU...

I'VE MET
TONS OF GUYS
WAY WORSE
THAN THEM.

...MORE
IMPORTANTLY,

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
SHOULD BE
TELLING ME
ALL THIS?

WELL...

THAT WAS
WHY, AT THAT
TIME, I WAS
EXTREMELY
DEPRESSED.

I TOLD YOU
BEFORE I WAS
THINKING ABOUT
DYING, RIGHT?

NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT, I FEEL
LIKE I MIGHT HAVE
THOUGHTLESSLY
PUT A BURDEN ON
YOU WHEN I SAID
THAT, BUT...

AH, MAYBE
THIS CONVER-
SATION IS
ALSO...?

Really? Then
that's good.

...! ARE YOU
DISGUSTED WITH ME
AFTER HEARING IT?

NO, THAT'S
NOT WHAT I
MEANT...

I HAVE
SOMETHING I
WANT TO GIVE
YOU.

WELL
THEN...

?!
WHAT
NOW?!

WHAT
NOW?!

AH, I SAID
THAT'S NOT
WHAT I
MEANT!!

IF THAT'S
SO, WOULDN'T YOU
PLEASE PRETEND
YOU HEARD
NOTHING?



I ALSO
INTENDED
TO CHANGE THE
LOCKS, BUT I GOT
HOME TOO LATE
LAST NIGHT, SO
THEY SAID THEY
WOULD DO IT
TODAY.

A NEW KEY.



YOU DIDN'T
LIKE A RANDOM
GEEZER YOU
DIDN'T KNOW
COMING INTO
OUR HOME,
RIGHT?

HEY, I'LL BUY MY
OWN STUFFSQA...



TA-DAAR.



...



MIKE?

THOUGH IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN BEST TO
CHANGE IT
SOONER...



MIKE.





DON'T GO
ANYWHERE. WON'T
YOU STAY WITH
ME?

I'LL
DO MY BEST
TO REPAY THAT
DEBT, AND THEN
WE CAN MOVE
TO A BIGGER
PLACE.

IF THAT'S IM-
POSSIBLE, THEN
I'LL AT LEAST
BUY A SLIGHTLY
BIGGER BED.



NO.

WHILE WE
SPEND OUR TIME
TOGETHER LIKE
THIS, IF YOU'D
LET ME HEAR
MORE ABOUT
YOURSELF—

AND I'LL
DO MY BEST
NOT TO COME
HOME TOO
LATE.

...I'LL MAKE YOU
LOTS OF DELICIOUS
FOOD,

I'VE...
FOUND
A WAY TO
MAKE A QUICK
BUCK, SO I'M
LEAVING.

THE ONLY
REASON I WAITED
FOR YOU WAS BECAUSE
I THOUGHT I SHOULD AT
LEAST LET YOU KNOW
I WAS LEAVING, SINCE
YOU TOOK CARE OF
ME AND ALL.

YOU'VE GOT
IT ALL WRONG. IT
DOESN'T MATTER
WHETHER YOU COME
HOME EARLY OR
LATE.

HA.

—I!!

WEREN'T
YOU...

THE ONE WHO
SOUGHT ME OUT?





I DON'T
WANT TO

DIE...





A close-up of two hands, one with a ring, clasped together in a pleading gesture.

PLEASE..



A pair of hands resting on a table, with a small cup in front of them.

DON'T LEAVE
ME ALONE.



A wider scene showing two men sitting at a table in a room with large windows. The man on the left is looking down with his hand to his face, while the man on the right looks at him.

THIS
GUY'S NOT
PLAYING
FAIR.

WITH WHAT HE
SAID JUST NOW,
HE'S MAKING
MY RESOLVE
WAVER AGAIN.



JUST TRY
THINKING
ABOUT IT.



HE'S IN
SO MUCH
DEBT THAT
HE THOUGHT
ABOUT GIV-
ING UP ON
LIFE.

I'VE GOT
A TWISTED
PERSONALITY,
AND I CAUSE
TROUBLE
WHEREVER
I GO.

RIGHT
NOW, I'M
JUST CLING-
ING TO A
MOMENTARY
ILLUSION OF
PEACE.



EVEN IF I
TAKE HIS
HAND...





WE...

CAN'T
BE HAPPY
TOGETHER.



DIDN'T I
TELL YOU THAT
I WAS WORRIED
ABOUT WHETHER
I WAS A BURDEN
TO YOU?

I CAN'T TAKE THIS
AS ANYTHING BUT
YOU THREATENING
ME, THOUGH.

AS...
AS LONG
AS WE'RE
TOGETHER,
IT'S FINE,
RIGHT?



.....!!!!







I'M NOT
LIKE THIS WITH
EVERYONE,
THOUGH.



Sigh

...WHATEVER.
TALKING TO YOU
ABOUT IT WILL JUST
TURN ME INTO AN
IDIOT.

YOU REALLY
ARE A STRANGE
GUY.



IT LOOKS LIKE
THE RAIN'S
STOPPED.

AH.

Plip

Plip

THE FOOD SERVED FIRST THING IN THE MORNING BY INHOSPITABLE AND UNWELCOMING EMPLOYEES, AND THE AWFUL COFFEE.

THE OPPRESSIVE SOUND OF RAIN AND THE NAUSEATING STENCH DRIFTING OUT FROM THE GUTTERS.

THIS CITY...

THANKS TO THAT, I WAS SOAKED.

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO HEAD HOME, RIGHT?

IT WAS FALLING ALL OF LAST NIGHT, TOO.

I WANT TO TAKE A SHOWER.

AS USUAL,

EVERY LAST ONE OF THESE THINGS IS SOMETHING I HATE.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT

MIKE, WANT TO GO OUT SOMEWHERE ON MY NEXT DAY OFF?

THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY MORE GUYS TRYING TO PICK FIGHTS WITH US—



HOWEVER,
THERE'S JUST
ONE EXCEPTION
THAT I'VE
MADE...



MIKE, YOU
HAD A CELL
PHONE?

YEAH.

WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL
ME?

IF I'D TOLD
YOU, YOU'D
CALL ME,
WOULDN'T
YOU?

HOW CRUEL,
OF COURSE I
WOULD.

GIVE
ME YOUR
NUMBER.

WHAT A
PLEASANT
COINCIDENCE.

NO WAY.

YOU SAY
THAT EVEN
THOUGH YOU'LL
STILL GIVE IT
TO ME IN THE
END...

END

Midnight Rain Extra



A CERTAIN
MOVE THEATER
IN THE CITY.





SINCE THEY'VE
BEEN TALKING THIS
WHOLE TIME.

AND IT'S NOT
EVEN QUIET AT
ALL...

IT'S
BORING...

IS HE INTO THIS
KIND OF MOVIE...?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S
SO BORING AND
TEDIOUS.

Popcorn's
done.

...IT'S NOT
GOING TO BE
LIKE THIS EVERY
WEEKEND FROM
NOW ON, IS IT?
SERIOUSLY,
GIVE ME A
BREAK.

I WASN'T
ASLEEP.

JUMP

AHN?!

YOU SAY
THAT, BUT
YOU WERE
SOUND
ASLEEP.

YEAH.
JUST WHAT'S
SO INTERESTING
ABOUT SOME-
THING LIKE
THIS?

IF IT WERE ON
TV, I'D CHANGE
THE CHANNEL
IMMEDIATELY.

IT SEEMS LIKE
IT WASN'T ALL
THAT INTEREST-
ING, HUH?

MIKE.

THE
MOVIE'S
OVER.

UGH... SO
TIRED...

IT WAS A WASTE OF
MONEY IF THE TICKETS
WERE EXPENSIVE.



HOW
UNFORTUNATE.



...DID I SAY
SOMETHING
WRONG?



WELL, IT WAS
DEFINITELY A
COMPLICATED
MOVIE.

Even though
I said anything
was fine

MAYBE I WAS
TOO INSENSITIVE
ABOUT IT, EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
SOMETHING
HE LIKES.
I JUST SOUND
LIKE A DICK.

.....





...I WAS
JUST COMPLAINING
BEFORE, BUT IT WASN'T
COMPLETELY
TERRIBLE.

Also, the
popcorn was
tasty.

IT HAD
GOOD POINTS
IN ITS OWN
WAY, TOO.



...HEY, UM,
DID I HURT YOUR
FEELINGS?

...I TOLD
YOU FROM THE
START... THAT I
HAVE A SHARP
TONGUE...

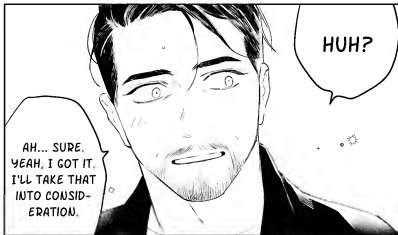
YOU KNEW
THAT, RIGHT?

I JUST WANT
TO SAY, ISN'T
IT BETTER TO
WATCH A MOVIE
QUIETLY AT HOME
TOGETHER?

AND IF WE'RE
GONNA WATCH A
MOVIE, LET'S WATCH
SOMETHING LESS
QUIET AND MORE
STIMULATING
INSTEAD.



SO...



AH... SURE.
YEAH, I GOT IT.
I'LL TAKE THAT
INTO CONSID-
ERATION.

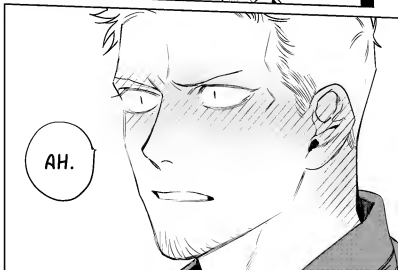
HUH?



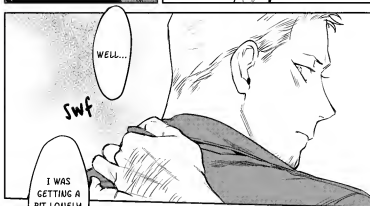
Yeah....?

Yeah...

Yeah!



AH.







You're mine-nya!
You're only mine!



Afterword

Hello.

This is GTK.

Thank you very much for reading Midnight Rain.
At first, the story was dark and there didn't seem
to be much hope for the conclusion, but as it
continued, the content ended up brighter and more
hopeful

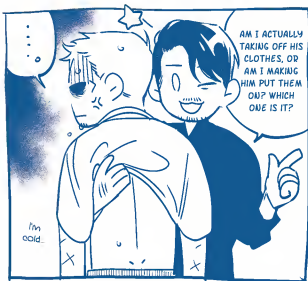
Ethan and Mike got through some tough periods
in their lives, so hopefully they can keep doing
their best.

I'll be wishing for us to meet again.

Special Thanks to my
editors, F-sama, I-sama
and R-sama



Here's a quiz!



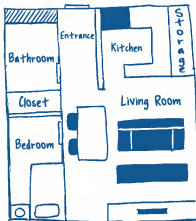
It's Schrödinger's hemline!

M i d n i g h t R a i n

CTK



Ethan's House



Isn't it
quite big?



It's old,
though...



IF ETHAN AND MIKE'S POSITIONS WERE REVERSED...



THEY'D
END UP
GETTING
ALONG
QUITE WELL
ANYWAY.

HOW LONG DO
YOU INTEND TO
STAY HERE?

UNTIL I'VE
REPAID YOU?

QUIT JOKING
AROUND. YOU
THINK I WON'T
KICK YOU
OUT?

YEAH!

「MIDNIGHT
RAIN」
E-book

Thank you very
much for buying
the Midnight Rain
E-book!

CHK